

**SUGGESTED FORM FOR OPTIONAL NOTICE
TO THIRD PARTY ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING
CHANGE IN LAW REGARDING ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION
RESTRICTIONS**

Dear Organization:

This is to inform you that pursuant to a recent change in 13-13-213, MCA, effective July 1, 2005, third parties are no longer prohibited from collecting applications for absentee ballots from electors and forwarding the applications to the election administrator.

However, the new law does provide that all absentee ballot application forms must be addressed to the appropriate election official. This means application forms that are mailed may not be addressed to your organization instead of to the county elections office.

As in the past, an elector who requests an absentee ballot due to sudden illness or health emergency may request the assistance of an absentee election board which may as necessary bring the application and ballot to an elector to assist the elector in voting.

Lastly, 13-13-214, MCA still allows an elector to designate a person to pick up a ballot for the elector. The election administrator may deliver a ballot in person to an individual other than the elector if:

- (i) the elector has designated the individual, either by a signed letter or by making the designation on the application form in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state;
- (ii) the individual taking delivery of the ballot on behalf of the elector verifies, by signature, receipt of the ballot;
- (iii) the election administrator believes that the individual receiving the ballot is the designated person; and
- (iv) the designated person has not previously picked up ballots for four other electors.

Please inform your membership regarding this information.